Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
           Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Janet Bramley

DATE: October 31, 2003

RE: Trauma Victims served in Children's Services Programs

This week's PIP focuses on the representation of identified trauma victims among children and adolescents under 18 served by community mental health Children's Services programs in Vermont during FY 2003. For this analysis, trauma victims are identified on the basis of a diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) (309.81) and/or on the basis of identification of the young person as an "abuse/assault/rape victim" during an intake problem assessment recorded in the CMHC management information system.

There are two tables attached. One table examines the representation of identified trauma victims in standard age and gender categories. The second table examines the representation of identified trauma victims on the caseload of each of Vermont's ten regional community mental health Children's Services programs. In both tables, findings are presented separately for each of three indicators of trauma (diagnosis, problem assessment, or either). In each case, representation of trauma victims is reported as a percent of all young people served. In addition, the total number of identified trauma victims is presented as a proportion of the total population of the state in the specified age/gender group or in the CMHC's service area.

As you will see, more than 1,500 young people, 19% of all young people served in FY 2003, had in indication of trauma in the database. This includes the 9% of all service recipients who had a diagnosis of PTSD, and 14% of all service recipients who had been identified as a "victim" during their intake problem assessment. This total accounts for more than 10 out of every 1,000 residents of Vermont in the target age group. This per capita rate varies substantially among regions of the state from more than 16 per thousand residents in Rutland County and in Southeastern Vermont to less than 2 per thousand in Lamoille County and Northwestern Vermont. These differences among local community programs could be due to differences in the prevalence of trauma in the total population, differences in utilization of CMHC Children's Services Programs in different parts of the state, and/or differences in clinical skills or record keeping practices.
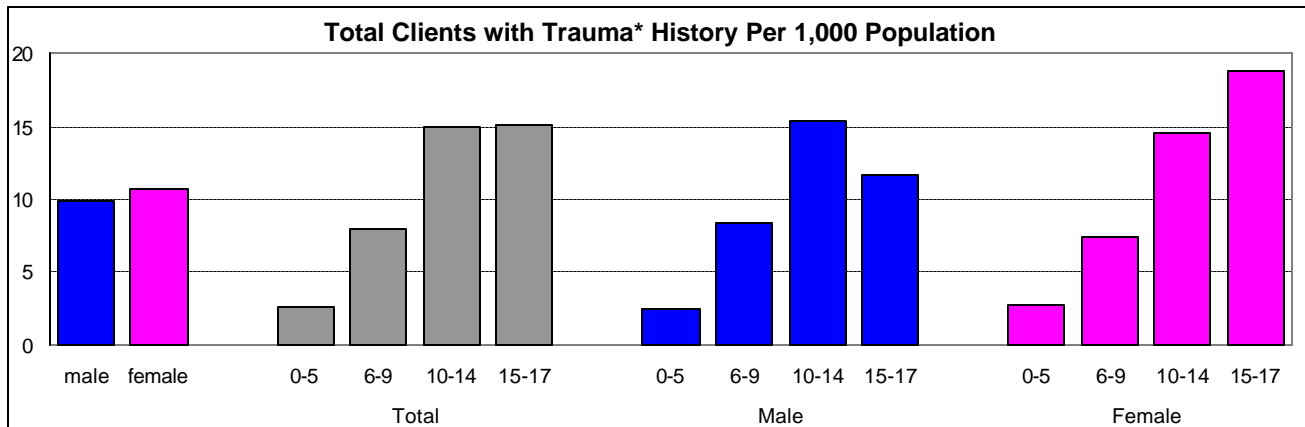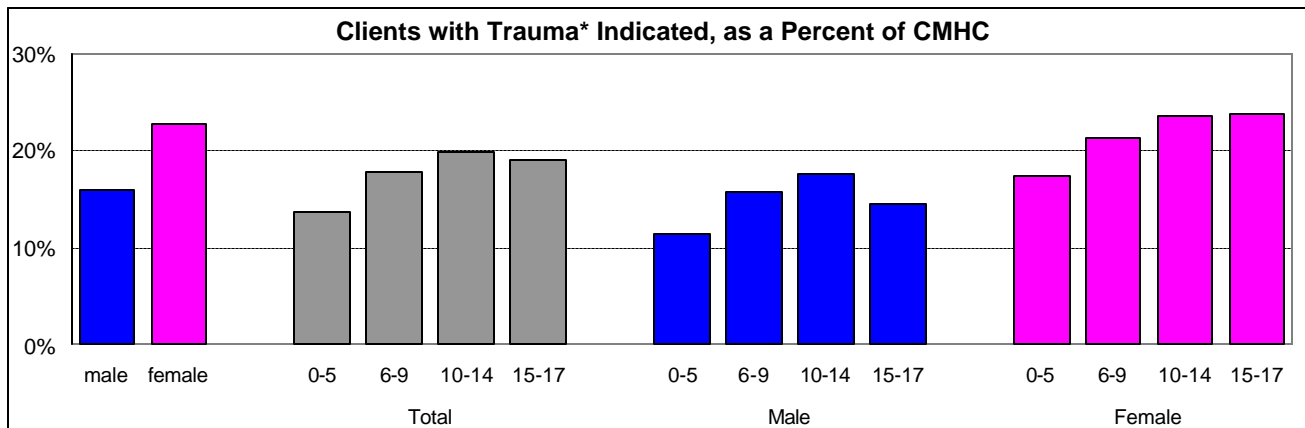
Identified trauma was more likely for female than for male service recipients overall (23% vs. 16%), but there was little difference between the genders in the rate at which members of the total population were both served and identified as trauma victims by CMHC staff (11 vs. 10 per

thousand). This is because boys are much more likely than girls to become CMHC clients. When we consider the population-based rates, females in the 15-17 age group had the highest identification rate (19 per thousand) followed by males in the 10-14 age group (15 per thousand) and females in the 10-14 age group (14 per thousand). Children less than 6 years of age were the least likely to be identified as trauma victims (less than 3 per thousand for both boys and girls).

As we move forward on this line of inquiry, we plan to use measures of caseload overlap between mental health service data sets and other data sets in order to add to our understanding of the rates at which individuals who are trauma victims make use of community mental health services. Other data sets used in these analyses will be selected to include individuals who have been independently identified as trauma victims by medical, criminal justice and/or other human service programs. Analysis of the number of independently identified individuals who became clients of Children's Services programs will provide information regarding trauma victims' level of access to mental health services. This analysis will also provide information regarding the degree to which known trauma victims are identified during standard intake and diagnostic processes in Vermont's Children's Services programs. We will appreciate any suggestions you have regarding data sets that would be useful to this project.

We also look forward to your questions, comments about the findings reported here and your suggestions for further analysis of these data. As always, you can reach us at pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us or 802-241-2638.
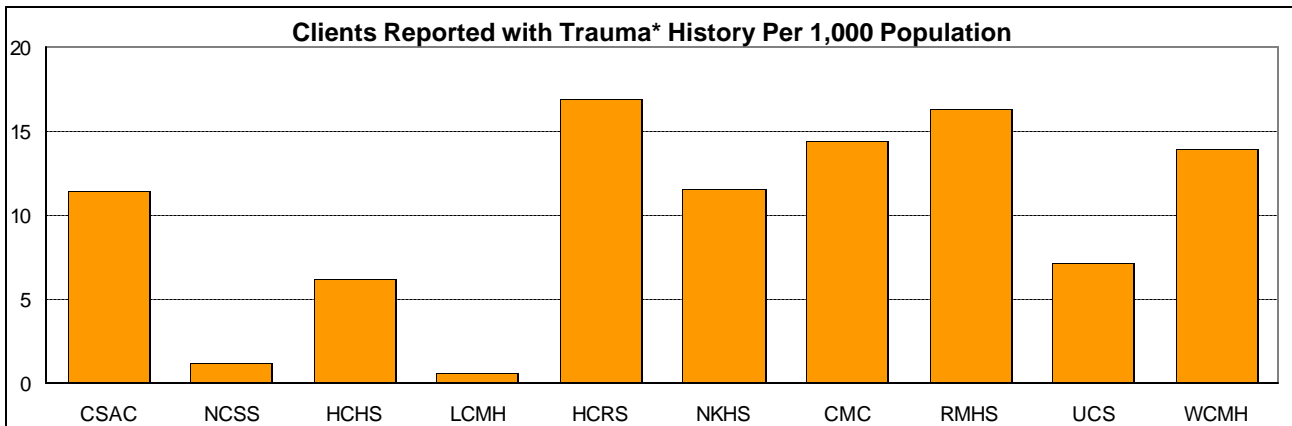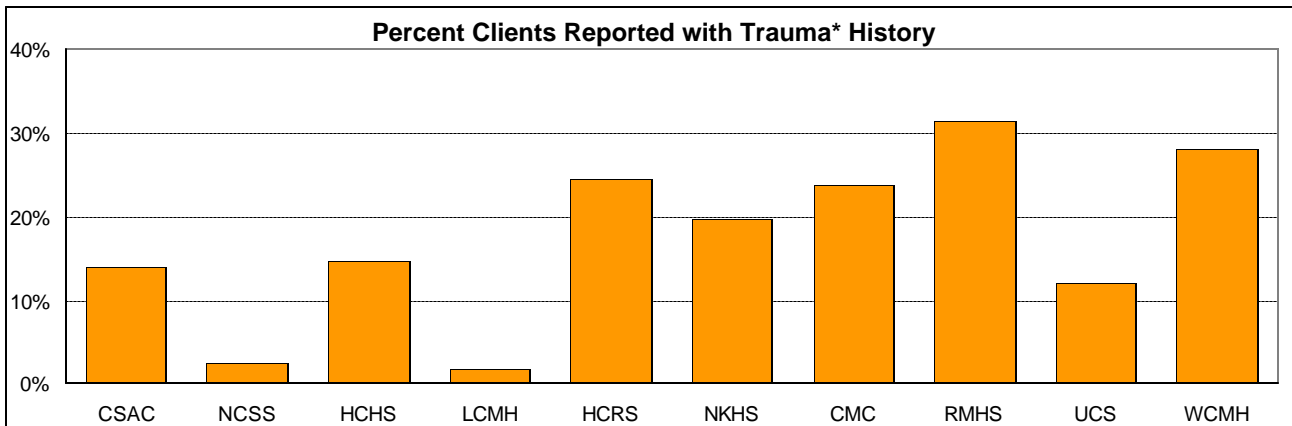
Children's Services Clients
With an Indication of Trauma*
in CMHC Administrative Databases
Vermont: FY 2003

Clients with Trauma* Indicated, as a Percent of CMHC

Total Clients with Trauma* History Per 1,000 Population

		Clients Served	PTSD Diagnosis		Victim Assessment		Total Trauma*		Per 1,000 Population
			#	%	#	%	#	%	
	Total	8,103	715	9%	1,116	14%	1,516	19%	10
Age	0-5	634	37	6%	62	10%	87	14%	3
	6-9	1,775	163	9%	224	13%	317	18%	8
	10-14	3,497	338	10%	504	14%	696	20%	15
	15-17	2,197	177	8%	326	15%	416	19%	15
Male	Total	4,710	335	7%	541	11%	747	16%	10
	0-5	381	18	5%	29	8%	43	11%	2
	6-9	1,088	94	9%	118	11%	171	16%	8
	10-14	2,103	163	8%	266	13%	369	18%	15
	15-17	1,138	60	5%	128	11%	164	14%	12
Female	Total	3,393	380	11%	575	17%	769	23%	11
	0-5	253	19	8%	33	42%	44	17%	3
	6-9	687	69	10%	106	35%	146	21%	7
	10-14	1,394	175	13%	238	14%	327	23%	14
	15-17	1,059	117	11%	198	54%	252	24%	19

* Trauma victims are identified on the basis of a diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (309.81) and/or on the basis of identification as an "abuse/assault/rape victim" during an intake problem assessment recorded in the CMHC management information system.

Children's Services Clients
With an Indication of Trauma*
in CMHC Administrative Databases
Vermont: FY 2003

Percent Clients Reported with Trauma* History

Clients Reported with Trauma* History Per 1,000 Population

Clinic	Clients Served	PTSD Diagnosis		Victim Assessment		Total Trauma*		Per 1,000 Population
		#	%	#	%	#	%	
Total	8103	715	9%	1116	14%	1516	19%	10
CSAC	726	54	7%	54	7%	101	14%	11
NCSS	755	19	3%	0	0%	19	3%	1
HCHS	1470	87	6%	155	11%	216	15%	6
LCMH	213	4	2%	0	0%	4	2%	1
HCRS	1504	167	11%	300	20%	370	25%	17
NKHS	929	85	9%	140	15%	183	20%	12
CMC	557	76	14%	100	18%	133	24%	14
RMHS	754	83	11%	204	27%	238	32%	16
UCS	518	42	8%	22	4%	62	12%	7
WCMH	677	98	14%	141	21%	190	28%	14

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